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Is avon uk closing down

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Cooper Tires’ Melksham factory shuts down after 112 years The final tyres came off the production line at Cooper Tires' Melksham site at the end of 2023, marking a sad end to an era. The factory, which was previously known as Avon Tyres, has been a cornerstone of the local community for generations, employing thousands of people over the years. In October 2022, the company announced its plans to close the site due to being no longer competitive, leaving 350 staff on notice of redundancy. Employee Alan Yates, who is now retiring, was involved in the final production process. He said it was a historic moment and felt sad to be winding down after nearly 40 years with the company. The last tyres produced included one for a vintage motorbike from the 1950s. Alan, who has worked at the factory for nearly 20 years, announced his retirement after nearly two decades of service. The veteran employee expressed sadness about winding down his career and acknowledged that many colleagues have been with the company for even longer - some having worked there for over 40 years. Alan recalled attending the 100-year centenary celebration and witnessing significant changes in the factory's history, including the takeover by Cooper Tires, which replaced Avon. He also shared a personal connection to the site, growing up in Melksham and remembering the big fire that occurred there as a child. The factory has been an important employer for his family, with relatives having worked there in the 1970s. Other staff members expressed their emotions about the closure of the factory, which is set to take place later this year. Jordan Smith, who was part of the racing department team, recalled the moment when the last tyre came off the production line and how the team gathered around to mark the occasion. The Cooper Tire and Rubber Company has announced that it will close its Melksham factory due to "increasingly challenging" circumstances. The proposed closure is part of a larger trend in the tire industry, with Cooper Tires announcing its intention to sell off underperforming assets. The company had stated that 350 employees would be involved in a consultation process regarding the future of the site. Local residents have been invited to participate in the Neighbourhood Plan, which aims to shape Melksham's future and decide how the site should be redeveloped after the factory closes. The UK's last motorcycle tyre production facility in Melksham will shut down next year, leaving employees facing layoffs. Company officials cited struggles with competitiveness and declining profits over two decades as reasons for the closure. The Cooper Tire and Rubber Company has been trying to keep operations running despite tough business conditions, but ultimately made the difficult decision to initiate a consultation process regarding the plant's proposed shutdown.